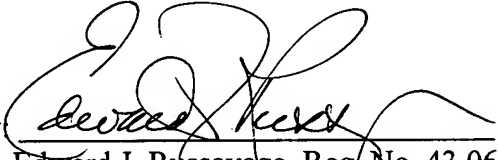


REMARKS

Prior to examination on the merits, Applicants respectfully request consideration and entry of this Preliminary Amendment and submit the following remarks. Claims 1-9 were previously pending in this application. Claims 3, 7, and 9 have been amended. As a result claims 1-9 are pending for examination with claims 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8 being independent claims. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing, consideration and favorable action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
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